

Boston College
Department of Economics

Economics 151: Economic Statistics

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Office Hours: Recitation and by appointment.

Text: Essentials of Statistics for Business and Economics with Computer Case Solutions by Anderson, Sweeney and Williams. This is the required textbook for the course; it is available in the bookstore. There are companion workbooks and test banks also available at the bookstore.

Topics: (to be revised as needed)

Descriptive Statistics: Chapters 1, 2, and 3

Probability: Chapters 4, 5, and 6

Events: Chapter 4

Random Variables and Expected Value: Chapter 5

Distributions: Chapters 5 and 6

Sampling and Estimation: Chapters 7 and 8

Hypothesis Testing: Chapters 9, 10, and 11

Regression: Chapter 12

Course Requirements: your grade will be based on five exams; four preliminary exams will be given during the term and the final will be during finals week. The final exam will be comprehensive, covering all the material you saw during the course. ALL exams will be weighted *EQUALLY*. If you should miss an exam, I will need a letter from your Dean stating that it was an approved absence. If not, you will receive a Zero for the exam. To help ease your exam anxiety, I will provide any statistical tables you may require and allow you to bring in one 8.5" x 11" formula sheet and a calculator. Please note that programmable calculators will not be allowed. The dates for the preliminary exams are:

Prelim 1: Wednesday, February 4th, In Class.

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Prelim 2: Friday, February 27th, In Class; Before Spring Break.

Prelim 3: Monday, March 30th, In Class.

Prelim 4: Monday, April 27th, In Class.

Homework and Recitations: The best way to learn stats is by doing problems in order to understand the concepts and techniques. There will be a number of problem sets issued during the course of the term. Homework is due at the beginning of the recitation section on Sundays. Homework and section attendance is optional, but strongly encouraged. During the recitation sections, we will go over the homework problems and any other questions you may have. If you do not wish to attend, you can turn in your homework into my mailbox outside Carney 148 before the recitation section. Homeworks turned in after this time are considered late. Homeworks turned in after their cycle (i.e. when we are reviewing another problem set in section) will not receive credit. You are allowed one late homework per semester; any additional late homeworks will not receive credit. Graded homeworks will be returned the next week along with an answer key. If you miss class, old homeworks will be placed in a folder on a desk outside of Carney 33B, look for your section time on the folder. Though homework is optional, it is to your advantage to do it. Homework can boost your grade by a third; if your test grades average out to a B and all your homeworks are of acceptable quality, you will receive a B+ as your final grade. Homework is also your "get out of jail free" card. Should you fail the course, but have completed all the homeworks, you will receive a passing grade of D-.

All students are expected to comply with the rules of academic integrity as outlined in the Boston College Student Handbook. If you are not familiar with them, please see the Boston College Catalog (pp. 41 - 42 for Arts & Sciences regulations). Violations will be severely punished.

If you have questions, **PLEASE SEE ME IMMEDIATELY**. There is a lot of material to be covered and it does build upon itself. If you feel that you do not understand something, please ask. Do not let your problems snowball into an avalanche. If you feel uncomfortable asking questions in class, either come to my office hours or

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arrange for an appointment. I am usually around during the evenings around 8 or so, either in my office or the department computer room in Carney 138 (or occasionally the O.C.F.). The building is usually not locked until approximately 10 PM so feel free to come by if you are in the area (call ahead to make sure I'm in). We can also make appointments to meet at a convenient time. Please email me at least a day in advance and we can set up a time to meet.